

Virginia African American Advisory Board
January 18, 2023
Virginia Museum of the Fine Arts
12:30 p.m.

Present

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green – Chairperson, Rev Cozy Bailey – Vice Chairperson, Cameron Patterson, Secretary Clarence Neely, Bill Cleveland , Robert Barnett, Princess Philomena Desmond Ogugua , Shelia Dixon, Toria Edmunds-Howell, Hope Cupit, Keren Charles Dongo, Eldon Burton, Tia Yancey

Absent

Chris Sanchez, Dr. Van Wilson, Monica Reid, Dr. Ingrid Grandberry Grant, Precious Muhammad, Joe Chase, Larry Boone

Guest:

Hon. John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Hon. Amy Rogstad Guidera, Secretary of Education

Hon. Martin Brown, Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer

Tori Nebree, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Gloria Senecal, Director of Board Administration, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General

Members of the Public Present:

Kent Ruffin, Director of the African American Heritage Association of Virginia

Pre-Meeting Comments from Secretary Littel, Secretary of Health & Human Resources

Dr. Ivey Green welcomed Secretary Littel. The Secretary gave a brief history about himself and gave an overview of his career. He also shared the administrations priorities related to mental health and creating a system to provide hope to people. He gave an overview of the Behavioral Health Program and priorities outlined in the budget that the Governor submitted. Rev. Cozy Bailey shared that mental health was one of the areas that the Governor was interested in related to our report when both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Virginia African American Advisory Board met with him. Following the presentation from Secretary Littel members of the board asked questions.

Call to Order

The meeting was formally called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Dr. Ivey Green.

Minutes

Dr. Ivey Green asked for board members to take a few moments to review the minutes in our meeting packet from the November 17, 2022 meeting at Virginia Humanities. Robert Barnett motioned to approve with a second by Keren Charles Dongo. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Agenda

Dr. Ivey Green asked for the board to review the agenda for additions or corrections. Cameron Patterson motioned to approve the agenda with a second from Robert Barnett. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Vote on draft report to the Governor

Dr. Ivey Green asked for a motion to approve the draft report to the Governor. The report has already been shared with the Governor and members of his administration. Copies of the report were distributed by Rev. Cozy Bailey and made available to everyone via email. Cameron Patterson motioned to approve with a second from Robert Barnett. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Review of Meeting with the Governor

Rev. Cozy Bailey offered an overview of the meeting with the Governor. Rev. Bailey and Dr. Ivey Green as leadership of the Board met with the Governor. The meeting included the Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer Martin Brown, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Moon, and Gloria Senecal, Director of Board Administration. The meeting was scheduled for 30 minutes but the Governor allowed additional time to engage in conversation.

The Governor was very engaged with the Chair and Vice Chair. Two items of interest included mental health and criminal justice. Rev. Bailey mentioned that we will continue to dialogue with the administration regarding all items in the report. Rev. Cozy summarized the meeting as a very lively discussion and the members got immediate feedback from the items in the report that aligned with the Governor's agenda.

Robert Barnett asked were there any funds tied to Behavioral Health initiative? Mr. Brown answered that about \$230 million dollars is the ask. Materials for this were included in our meeting packet. Clarence Neely asked about people trying to get into the mental health profession but there are a lot of hold ups. He asked Mr. Brown see a light at the end of the tunnel? Mr. Brown said there are a lot of regulatory matters and we are trying to address regarding recruitment. Mr. Brown stated he could be a resource to provide assistance and connect individuals to the appropriate area.

Mr. Barnett stated that we need to follow the budget to make sure the money goes where it needs too. Gloria Senecal stated this is a bipartisan bill and let your legislators know it is important. Discussion ensued among board members relating to the Behavioral Health initiative of the Governor. Eldon Burton recommended that we have a one a pager to accompany our annual report that speaks to our ask and to a dollar amount to it.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Ivey Green spoke to the role of the board and how we are going to move forward. She asked the board to consider serving on committees. They went over the survey with the Governor and he really liked the idea of the survey and asked that the board do another survey. Gloria Senecal will send out information about committee meetings and the Chair asked that the Committee Chair set the dates up as soon as possible. Looking for community engagement and how we move forward to get involved. The Chair is looking for us to do more in the community over the next year.

Board Administration Update

Gloria Senecal shared a Board Administration update.

It included information regarding travel reimbursements, the need to rsvp for future meetings and the reminder about prioritizing attendance, potential locations for future meetings, the code of conduct that was shared via email, financial disclosures that are due on February 1, 2023, and the need to have a report completed to the Governor by August so that it aligns with the Governor's budget process. Gloria mentioned a meeting in Fredericksburg for the next meeting of the VAAB. It was

decided that we would pursue meeting at the local community college. Eldon Burton suggested that we make an effort to meet at a HBCU quarterly.

Conversations with Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer

Mr. Martin Brown passed out to the board the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools. The Secretary of Education joined via phone for a conversation with the Board. Mr. Brown called her in so that she may address the board. The board was asked to provide any questions to the Secretary of Education regarding the standards. She spoke to the History and Social Science standards, mentioned five sessions for the public to review and provide comments. The Board of Education will align the standards to the curriculum after approval from the board. The Chair recommended that the Secretary of Education speak with the Education committee and others who may want to join in on the conversation. Keren noted that Teachers must be engaged in the process. Cameron wanted it noted that one of the public comment periods will be held at the museum in Farmville. He also wanted to ensure that museums be engaged as a resource for educators particularly related to future professional development opportunities. Robert Barnett expressed concern on behalf of the Virginia NAACP. He mentioned that their education committee would be reviewing the latest version of the standards and would offer those concerns as a later time

Board Elections

Board elections were held to elect the position of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. Gloria Senecal read the information submitted for each candidate and gave them the opportunity to share additional comments. Gloria Senecal shared that Mr. Chase removed himself from being considered for position of Board Chairperson. Mr. Barnett moved that the nominations be closed for Chairperson with a second from Keren Charles Dongo. The motion was approved unanimously. Gloria asked for a roll call vote for the position of Chairperson (Listed Below).

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green – Dr. Ivey Green
- Cameron Patterson – Dr. Ivey Green
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Dr. Ivey Green
- Eldon Burton – Dr. Ivey Green
- Hope Cupit – Dr. Ivey Green
- Toria Edmonds – Howell – Dr. Ivey Green
- Rev. Cozy Bailey – Dr. Ivey Green
- Keren Charles Dongo – Dr. Ivey Green
- Shiela Dixon – Dr. Ivey Green
- Tia Yancey – Dr. Ivey Green
- Bill Cleveland – Dr. Ivey Green
- Princess Pilomena Desmond – Ogugua – Dr. Ivey Green
- Clarence Neely – Dr. Ivey Green

The Board considered candidates for the position of Vice Chairperson. Following a reading of the statements by Rev. Cozy Bailey and Mr. Clarence Neeley it was moved that nominations be closed by Cameron Patterson with a second from Rev. Cozy Bailey. The motion was approved unanimously. Gloria Senecal asked for a roll call vote for the position of Vice Chair (Listed Below)

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Cameron Patterson – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Eldon Burton – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Hope Cupit – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Toria Edmonds – Howell – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Rev. Cozy Bailey – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Keren Charles Dongo – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Shiela Dixon – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Tia Yancey – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Bill Cleveland – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Princess Pilomena Desmond – Ogugua – Rev. Cozy Bailey
- Clarence Neely – Rev. Cozy Bailey

The Board considered candidates for the position of Secretary. Following a reading of statements presented by Hope Cupit, it was moved by Cameron Patterson to close the nominations with a second from Keren Charles Dongo. The motion was approved unanimously. Gloria Senecal asked for a roll call vote for the position of Secretary (Listed Below)

- Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green – Hope Cupit
- Cameron Patterson – Hope Cupit
- Robert Barnette Jr. – Hope Cupit
- Eldon Burton – Hope Cupit
- Hope Cupit – Hope Cupit
- Toria Edmonds – Howell – Hope Cupit
- Rev. Cozy Bailey – Yes
- Keren Charles Dongo – Hope Cupit
- Shiela Dixon – Hope Cupit
- Tia Yancey – Hope Cupit
- Bill Cleveland – Hope Cupit
- Princess Pilomena Desmond – Ogugua – Hope Cupit
- Clarence Neely – Hope Cupit

Reconstitute Subcommittees

Rev. Bailey asked the board if the four sub-committees were to still stay in place. The board wants to add Gun Violence and Housing to the focus for the upcoming report. If there are concerns that subject item will be added to that committee. Primary committees:

- Small Black Owned Business
- Health and the Environment
- Education
 - Co-Chair K-12
 - Co-Chair Higher ED
- Public Safety and Criminal Justice
- Gun Violence
- Housing

Virtual meetings were brought up and AG Bell gave the board advice on that. The board cannot have back to back virtual meetings. A quarter of your meetings or two may be virtual. The meeting notice has to be done three days in advance and meeting minutes are needed.

Eldon Burton moved that we adopt the virtual meeting policy, second by Robert Barnett. The motion was approved unanimously. Rev. Cozy Bailey wants the Board to get started on the Black Table Talks by or before the March meeting. Gloria Senecal asked if we could identify what Ex-Officio member, we should invite to subcommittee members.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Ivey Green reminded the board about our vision map along with the five ways we communicate within the board:

- Board meeting
- Biweekly chair check in
- Committee meetings
- Community outreach/listening session
- Community awards /scholarships

Dr. Ivey Green gave an overview of the strategic plan. She mentioned that she wants to continue working with the other boards on shared concerns. It is important to build connections with the community. Need to do a better job of keeping records and documentation. The black table talks and survey will help us assess the work. Where we want to be in three years.

Subcommittee Planning

Rev. Bailey asked the board members to break out into subcommittee discussions from 3:55-4:15. Cozy will provide a schedule to the committees in order to have the report ready by September 2023. The subcommittees will begin to develop goals and topics.

Public Comment

Dr. Ivey Green introduced Mr. Kent Ruffin of the African American Heritage Association of Virginia. The board also spoke about Black History month and doing something for the community to educate the public. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Robert Barnet and a second from Keren Charles Dongo to co-sponsor three programs during the month of February. The motion was approved unanimously.

Closing remarks and announcements

Chair gave closing remarks and thanked the board for their work.

The board adjourned at 4:24 pm

The next meeting is March 16 in Northern VA.